

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY
BOARD OF FIREARMS PERMIT EXAMINERS
20 Trinity St. 5th floor, Hartford, CT 06106
www.ct.gov/bfpe

Good Morning Senator Harp, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Susan Mazzoccoli and I am the only employee with the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners.

The Board of Firearms Permit Examiners 2011:

Under CGS 29-32b the Board provides a means of appeal through administrative hearings to citizens who have been denied a pistol permit or have had a pistol permit revoked.

The Board is comprised of 7 volunteer members all appointed by the Governor. Our longest standing member has volunteered with the Board for 34 years and our newest member was appointed by Governor Malloy only 3 months ago. The only compensation the Board members receive is mileage.

In 2011 the Board received 314 new appeals that were added to the 284 pending appeals from 2010. The Board resolved 414 appeals which left 184 appeals pending in 2011.

The most significant accomplishment this year was the reduction of the Board's backlog or wait time for an appeal. Just two years ago citizens were told they would have to wait 16 months for a hearing. The Board has reduced the wait time for an administrative hearing by 50%. At the end 2011 the wait time was reduced to 8 months. This was accomplished by the Board members voting to meet more often and increasing the number of cases heard at each meeting. The Board's goal this year is to continue to serve the citizens and to further reduce the wait time to 3 months.

Transition to Office of Governmental Accountability:

In accordance with PA 11-48 as of July 1, 2011 the Board became one of the nine agencies merged with the new Office of Governmental Accountability.

Change can be difficult however it changed for the better when our Executive Administrator David Guay and his excellent staff reached out to help. The staff not only helped with moving the Boards office from Hudson Street to 20 Trinity Street but they have also provided assistance with the everyday office operations. Immediately there was improvement in computer services, phone services and mail room services; all vital to the operations of the Board.

I look forward to when personnel, payroll, affirmative action, administrative and business office functions will be in full operation by July 2012.

Through careful planning the Board was able to function within last year's budget and will continue to plan and pursue cost cutting measures in the 2013 recommended budget.

Thank you,

Susan Mazzoccoli
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